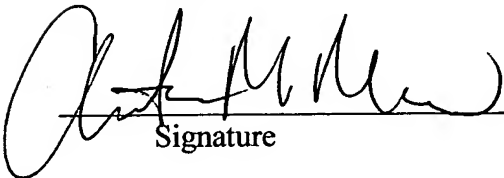


**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on March 22, 2005  
Date

  
Signature

Christine M. Mamerow  
Typed or printed name of person  
signing certificate



*DFW*  
*\$*

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of :

Peter T. O'Heeron, et al

Serial No.: 10/632,671

Filed: August 1, 2003

For: Obturator Tip For a Trocar

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Group Art Unit: 3739

Examiner: Beverly Meindl Flanagan

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED MARCH 1, 2005**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Claim 1 is pending in the application. In the Office Action mailed March 1, 2005, the Examiner rejected claim 1 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as unpatenable over claim 1 of U.S. Patent 6,830,578 in view of Sauer (USP 6,685,630) and Kortenbach (USP 5,624,459).

A terminal disclaimer is being filed concurrently with this response to overcome the Examiner's obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

The application is in a condition for allowance, and early allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. E. Eriksen", written over a horizontal line.

Clarence E. Eriksen

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